

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1                   1. A process for producing a carboxylic acid comprising culturing *Candida*  
2 *sp.* in a fermentation medium containing a substrate of the formula  $R(CH_2)_nCH_3$ , wherein  $n$  is  
3  $\geq 1$  and  $R$  is selected from the group consisting of epoxide, alkoxy, ether, saturated primary  
4 alcohol, cycloalkyl, aryl, diol and diol ester, whereby at least one terminal methyl group of  
5 the substrate is oxidized to a carboxylic acid.

1                   2. The process of claim 1 wherein the substrate is dissolved in a solvent prior  
2 to contact with the fermentation medium.

1                   3. The process of claim 2 wherein the solvent is an organic solvent.

1                   4. The process of claim 3 wherein the organic solvent is selected from the  
2 group consisting of ethanol and hexane.

1                   5. The process of claim 3 wherein the organic solvent is acetone.

1                   6. The process of claim 1 wherein the *Candida sp.* is selected from the group  
2 consisting of *C. albicans*, *C. cloacae*, *C. guilliermondii*, *C. intermedia*, *C. lipolytica*, *C.*  
3 *maltosa*, *C. parapsilosis*, and *C. zeylenoides*.

1                   7. The process of claim 1 wherein the *Candida sp.* is *C. tropicalis*.

1                   8. The process of claim 7 wherein *C. tropicalis* is substantially  $\beta$ -oxidation  
2 pathway blocked.

1                   9. The process of claim 8 wherein *C. tropicalis* is H5343.

1                   10. The process of claim 8 wherein one or more P450 *CYP* genes, P450 *CPR*  
2 genes, or a combination thereof is amplified in said *C. tropicalis*.

1                   11. The process of claim 1 wherein the substrate is a compound selected from  
2 the group consisting of dodecylvinyl ether, dihexyl ether, dipentyl ether, 1-dodecanol, 2-  
3 hexyldecanol, 2-butyl-1-octanol, 1,2-hexadecanediol, epoxidized soybean oil, 1,2-  
4 epoxytetradecane, butylcyclohexane, propylcyclohexane, ethylcyclohexane, polyethylene  
5 glycol 200 monolaurate, polyethylene glycol 200 dilaurate.

1                   12. A process for producing a carboxylic acid comprising culturing *Candida*  
2 *sp.* in a fermentation medium containing a substrate selected from the group consisting of 12-  
3 hydroxystearic acid, hexadecyl pelargonate, castor oil, hexadecyl acetate, dodecene,  
4 tetradecene, hexadecene, octadecene, trans-2-nonene, 7-trans-tetradecene, 2-heptylundecanoic  
5 acid and 2-hexyldecanoic acid whereby at least one terminal methyl group of the substrate is  
6 oxidized to a carboxylic acid.

7                   13. The process of claim 12 wherein the substrate is dissolved in a solvent  
8 prior to contact with the fermentation medium.

1                   14. The process of claim 12 wherein the *Candida sp.* is selected from the  
2 group consisting of *C. albicans*, *C. cloacae*, *C. guilliermondii*, *C. intermedia*, *C. lipolytica*, *C.*  
3 *maltosa*, *C. parapsilosis*, and *C. zeylenoides*.

1                   15. The process of claim 12 wherein the *Candida sp.* is *C. tropicalis*.

1                   16. A process for producing an alcohol comprising culturing *Candida sp.* in a  
2 fermentation medium containing a substrate of the formula  $R(CH_2)_nCH_3$ , wherein  $n$  is  $\geq 1$  and  
3  $R$  is selected from the group consisting of epoxide, alkoxy, ether, saturated primary alcohol,  
4 cycloalkyl, aryl, diol and diol ester, whereby at least one terminal methyl group of the  
5 substrate is oxidized to an alcohol.

1                   17. The process of claim 16 wherein the substrate is dissolved in a solvent  
2 prior to contact with the fermentation medium.

1                   18. The process of claim 17 wherein the solvent is an organic solvent.

1                   19. The process of claim 18 wherein the organic solvent is selected from the  
2 group consisting of ethanol and hexane.

1                   20. The process of claim 18 wherein the organic solvent is acetone.

1                   21. The process of claim 16 wherein the *Candida sp.* is selected from the  
2 group consisting of *C. albicans*, *C. cloacae*, *C. guilliermondii*, *C. intermedia*, *C. lipolytica*, *C.*  
3 *maltosa*, *C. parapsilosis*, and *C. zeylenoides*.

1                   22. The process of claim 16 wherein the *Candida sp.* is *C. tropicalis*.

1                   23. The process of claim 22 wherein *C. tropicalis* is substantially  $\beta$ -oxidation  
2 pathway blocked.

1                   24. The process of claim 23 wherein *C. tropicalis* is H5343.

1                   25. The process of claim 23 wherein one or more P450 *CYP* genes, P450 *CPR*  
2 genes, or a combination thereof is amplified in said *C. tropicalis*.

1                   26. The process of claim 16 wherein the substrate is a compound selected  
2 from the group consisting of dodecylvinyl ether, dihexyl ether, dipentyl ether, 1-dodecanol, 2-  
3 hexyldecanol, 2-butyl-1-octanol, 1,2-hexadecanediol, epoxidized soybean oil, 1,2-  
4 epoxytetradecane, butylcyclohexane, propylcyclohexane, ethylcyclohexane, polyethylene  
5 glycol 200 monolaurate, polyethylene glycol 200 dilaurate.

6                   27. A process for producing an alcohol comprising culturing *Candida sp.* in a  
7 fermentation medium containing a substrate selected from the group consisting of 12-  
8 hydroxystearic acid, hexadecyl pelargonate, castor oil, hexadecyl acetate, dodecene,  
9 tetradecene, hexadecene, octadecene, trans-2-nonene, 7-trans-tetradecene, 2-heptylundecanoic  
10 acid and 2-hexyldecanoic acid, whereby at least one terminal methyl group of the substrate is  
11 oxidized to an alcohol.

1                   28. The process of claim 27 wherein the substrate is dissolved in a solvent  
2 prior to contact with the fermentation medium.

1                   29. The process of claim 27 wherein the *Candida sp.* is selected from the  
2 group consisting of *C. albicans*, *C. cloacae*, *C. guilliermondii*, *C. intermedia*, *C. lipolytica*, *C.*  
3 *maltosa*, *C. parapsilosis*, and *C. zeylenoides*.

1                   30. The process of claim 27 wherein the *Candida sp.* is *C. tropicalis*.